

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 13, 2022

- Good afternoon.
- As you are all likely aware, the slow rolls and protests continue cross the country.
- Over the last 10 days, we have had considerable progress in effectively managing the protests and preventing blockages across the country.
- For example, yesterday, there was a slow roll protest on PEI. Operational plans were executed by Charlottetown Police and the RCMP, which prevented a possible blockade of the Confederation Bridge. The protest, which eventually rolled into Summerside was peaceful, managed by the police of jurisdiction and the RCMP.
- Other examples include the successful management of protests in Kelowna and Osoyoos in BC yesterday as well as at the Regway Crossing in Saskatchewan, where border traffic was slowed but not prevented. Protesters cooperated with the RCMP and no incidents occurred.
- Of course there are other situations where the RCMP and policing partners have not been able to resolve. You are all well aware of this.
- Where the RCMP is not the police of jurisdiction, we are doing everything we can to support our policing partners. Where we are the police of jurisdiction we are executing plans and taking the necessary steps to remove the blockades.
- Of course, this is not happening as fast as anyone would like, but our actions are guided by the need to ensure officer and public safety.

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- I know the integrated plan for Ottawa is of keen interest to this committee and I will get to that, but I will first provide an update on a few key locations including Windsor, Emerson and Coutts and the situation in BC.
- Then I'll circle back to Ottawa.
- All the information I'm sharing below is current as of 3pm this afternoon.

Windsor

- Enforcement has started and there have been 14 arrests and 6 vehicles towed. All charges were for Mischief. Arrests are to continue today.
- Plans are being finalized to re-open the bridge this evening.
- In addition to the resources the RCMP has already deployed to support Windsor Police and the OPP, we will provide an additional 50 resources to help protect critical infrastructure and ultimately to ensure that the ground that the progress made over the last 48 hours has gained is not lost again to protestors.
- We have about 10km of roadway to keep with WPS and OPP. We will do security at barricades, roving patrols, and a QRT function. Controlling the area will keep Huron Church open all the way to the 401. They would like us there for 5 days. We will see.

In terms of Emerson

- Lanes to the POE are closed to all commercial traffic except for live animals. Emergency vehicles and CBSA employees can make it through.
- The protest group has been informed of potential charges under the Criminal Code and provincial legislation.
- Police met with protestors this afternoon and the main group is again meeting tomorrow to make a decision on whether to stay or leave.

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- In the event the discussions and threat of charges not motivate the protests to leave, we have an enforcement plan that we are ready to execute.
- Enforcement to likely occur tomorrow based on tactical planning and discussions with the provincial government.
- There is currently a blizzard in the area so very little traffic.

As for the situation in Coutts

- Highway 4 remains completely blocked at the POE.
- We have made significant progress in decreasing the trucks and protestors, but we know the POE must be open. To this end, we have an enforcement plan ready for execution.
- To be clear, we are on the cusp of enforcement in Coutts.

In terms of British Columbia

- Yesterday, "Freedom Convoy Protests" occurred in multiple locations across the province - primarily in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Fort St. John and the Osoyoos and Surrey border crossings.
- At the 176th St. Border Crossing there are around 30 protestors. They are adamant that they will not leave. Protestors stated that they are in charge not the police and plan to extend their protest to all POE's and the Port of Vancouver.
- This afternoon, the RCMP's Tactical Support Group is deployed to lead efforts to clear the area. Individuals arrested for obstruction and mischief will be processed and released on strict "no go" conditions as long as there are no assaultive behaviors.

Moving back to Ottawa

- As of this morning the intersection of Sussex and Rideau has been fortified with tractor trucks parked tightly together. The mood at this intersection was described as defiant.

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- We are also monitoring a number of convoys that are expected to arrive in Ottawa today. There are about 100 protestors on Parliament Hill, and approximately 1000 on Wellington Street and in the downtown core. There are an estimated 505 trucks as well.
- In terms of our current deployment numbers in support of the OPS, the RCMP has 225 members, with the OPP currently at 233.
- With respect to Public Order Units, there is 33 from Durham, 32 from York, and 42 OPP members deployed.
- The RCMP also continue to have approximately 345 members deployed daily in support of our protective mandate.
- Also note, there was correspondence between the Ottawa Mayor and the Freedom Convoy indicating that organizers have agreed to the Mayor's request and condition for them to exit residential neighbourhoods in the coming days.
- This progress would provide impacted residents with a much needed break and improve safety and security of residents.

The Plan

- About the much talked about plan, I'll provide some highlights.
- RCMP and OPP assembled the foremost experts (POU, Incident Commanders and Planners) from across Canada to develop a strategic plan, including an RCMP forensic physiologist, who specializes in crowd dynamic, and possesses the necessary academic and operational credentials to provide expert evidence related to justifying the use of force.
- Their recommendations are consistent with the important lessons learned from the Ipperwash Inquiry and The Morden Report into the G20.

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- This group of experts has determined that there are crowd engagement and negotiation strategies that must be relied upon before the application of force would be justified.
- I will now turn to my subject matter experts to provide more details – Sgt. Darwin Tetreault.
- First, the plan was developed in partnership between the OPP, RCMP, OPS, and PPS, among others (e.g., York, Peel and TPS), with ultimate responsibility resting with Chief Sloley as the jurisdictional lead plus psychologist input.
- It has the support of both myself and Commissioner Carrique and Chief Sloley of course.
- It provides for a phased approach, with the first goal being a reduction of protest footprint, including vehicles, trucks, and pedestrians.
- I would note that some of the activities that my colleagues are going to highlight are things that we would have been expected days ago, but these are foundational steps that need to be done to ensure public safety and a successful resolution.
- There will be a daily assessment of how things were executed on the ground, and whether we are achieving the needed results, before readjusting for the next day building up to a final takedown.
- It is a phased approach, with the first goal being a reduction of protest footprint, including vehicles, trucks, and pedestrians.
- The largest component of it, is on the ground messaging by regular uniformed officers (as in no tactical attire), aimed at changing the crowd's mentality and getting them to leave voluntarily. Note that this is what was used in Alberta, to get them from 200 trucks down to 40.

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- In addition to the key communication tactics, the daily goals will include things like, determining the specific trucks with children, determining which trucks may be chained together, and setting goals of daily percentage decreases in protestors and vehicles.
- At some point, depending on the progress made on the daily goals, a decision will be made to initiate kinetic actions using Public Order Units supported by Emergency Response teams, or more commonly known as SWAT.
- If the teams are getting more pushback than success, the kinetic action will be needed sooner. If protestors are listening, leaving peacefully, with significantly assessed progression, we will allow each day's results to show for it, before taking a final kinetic action.
- We also need to be consistent with public messaging at all levels to instill confidence and mitigate flare ups elsewhere as things get taken down in Ottawa.
- I will leave it there and turn to Sgt Darwin Tetreault who can provide more details and timelines.

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Additional Supports

- As already mentioned, we are actively engaged in the discussion on the implications of the Emergencies Act and we are exploring what measures may be available from an operational perspective. My team has just met with Justice colleagues to provide our input.
- Here are a few examples of additional tools that would be useful to have on the enforcement front should the *Emergencies Act* be triggered:
 - Prohibitions on public assembly on roadways that are expected to lead to a breach of the peace and the capacity to arrest and lay charges.
 - This could include the designation and securing of protected places to prevent protests in these areas (e.g. BC Ferry terminals, Airports, Ports, Rail and Rapid Transit stations (e.g. Skytrain, Westcoast Express, CN/CP stations).
 - Consideration could also be given to extending the current bubble zone around Healthcare facilities to include other critical infrastructure such as government facilities / Police Detachments.
 - Prohibitions on the use of specified property to assist in the protest. For example, it could be an offence for individuals to bring gas / diesel fuel to protestors to fuel their trucks;
 - Powers for police to deal with property, including authorities to commandeer heavy equipment (e.g. tow trucks) to remove obstacles (trucks);
- This said, I am of the view that we have not yet exhausted all available tools that are already available through the existing legislation. There are instances where charges could be laid under existing authorities for various *Criminal Code* offences occurring right now in the context of the protest. The Ontario

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Provincial Emergencies Act just enacted will also help in providing additional deterrent tools to our existing toolbox.

- These existing tools are considered in our existing plans and will be used in due course as necessary.

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